The Canadian Philatelist

Xmas Number

Andrew King

December

Vol. 1 1910 No. 9

The Dickens Stamp

You have laughed with him, cried with him, smiled with him,
Travelled the realms that his fancy explored,
Met little Dorrit and Dora, dear girls of his,
Heard in Two Cities the clash of the sword;
You have smiled at poor hopeful Micawber,
Watched the vagaries of old Sairey Gamp,
Walked with Tom Pinch and his dear, gentle sister—
'Tis but a small sum, buys this little stamp.

Ah! They were his children, born in the brain of him,
Sprung from his heart for our solace and mirth,
Sprung from a heart that was tender, compassionate,
For those that suffer o'er all the wide earth.
And yet His Own Children, sorrowful, pitiful,
Prisoners bounden in Poverty's Camp,
Call to you, plead with you, all their friends plead with you,
Only to purchase a small penny stamp.

Is't not a shame, that these kith and kin of him,
Kin of a master who eased a world's pain;
Forgotten, neglected and almost despised of us,
Battling for bread in despair should remain?
Yes, but the hearts that he touched and who worshipped him,
Knew the bright path that he lit with his lamp;
These will go cheerfully, happily, eagerly,
Going to purchase that small Dickens stamp.

—T. P. Spanner

(Continued from Page 108)

ing over his. It seemed hours later when the two men issued out, and the waiting girl scarcely dare look into either face. The big specialist laid his hand on her shoulder. "Cheer up," he said "I have every hope of effecting a cure. It will mean an operation, and of course a long, and tedious recovery, but—by Christmas perhaps, I trust Mr. Edwards will be able to move about. I am arranging with Dr. Green to take him back to Washington with me tomorrow—I want to keep him under my own care—his case is particularly interesting." The girl's thanks trembled on her lips. Then once more the thought of the extra expense confronted her. There was not much left from the sale of her stamp collection. The great man seemed to read her thoughts. "The question of expense need not trouble you," he said, quietly, "In the great cause of science we are glad enough to do a little thing like that, now and then."

It was Christmas morning. In the flat Mabel and Mrs. Hartley were busy opening their mail.

"What a pretty Red Cross seal Ken is using," Mabel exclaimed, as she selected his letter to read first, from among the goodly pile on her table.

"Yes, I notice several letters of mine have it on the envelopes," Mrs. Hartley answered.

"I suppose it is the design which won the prize." Mabel said, "I have been so busy with other things lately, I forgot to watch for the result of that competition."

Then, as she read her letter, the colour deepened in her cheeks and her eyes sparkled.

"Why—It is Ken's stamp!" she cried, "he won the prize,"

From the luxurious nursing home in Washington, Ken Edwards wrote to the girl to whom he was responsible for his rapidly returning health. A small extract is permissible.

"So I won the prize, after all! I got an offer of five hundred dollars for the original picture yesterday, but I shall not sell it, unless the model of my Charity will promise to marry me as soon as I return home. Has she recognised herself yet? My doctor assures me that I shall walk as well as ever soon."

Is it necessary to give Mabel's answer, or to state that her Christmas stamp brought her the happiest Christmas she ever had?

W. A. Smith, New Glasgow, N. S. writes:
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"FAMOUS STAMP FINDS"

and "The Autobiography of an Ecuador Stamp" are the titles of two great serials which are shortly to be published in "The Southern Philatelist." They are written by capable philatelists and treat their subjects thoroughly. Don't fail to read them. The S. P. one whole year for only 25c and a fine packet, and two nice sets FREE to each subscriber. LEON CARTER GROSJEAN, 1227 Oakland St., Shreveport, La.

H. Vero S. Page writes: "The Canadian Philatelist is helping me on quite a lot. If it goes on as well as it has, it will have to be enlarged."

Western Collectors No. 8

Albert J. Humphries

The subject of our sketch this month, Mr. Albert J. Humphries, or Bert, as he is better known to his friends, was born in Birmingham, England, some 25 years ago. He was educated at King Edward's Grammar School, and at that seat of learning first started stamp collecting, and has been an enthasiastic collector ever since. For a number of years Mr. Humphries made British Colonials his particular study, which fact accounts for his collection being only about 5,000. He collects postage stamps only, and only perfect specimens find a place in his collection. His particular fancy is for the issues of Australia, his collection of the early issues of South Australia being superb. Triangular Cape of Good Hope dear to the heart of every young philatelist, take precedence over all others with Mr. Humphries.

Our subject has paid but little attention to the recent issues of the numerous South American countries, or places of a like nature, but agrees that a stamp collection should contain specimens of these issues. Mr. Humphries could double his collection for one hundredth part the cost of his first five thousand.

Mr. Humphries has lived in Canada for the last seven years, and is at present located at Raymore, Saskatchewan, in which town he is one of the most prominent citizens.

Mrs. Humphries is also a keen philatelist, taking great interest in her husband's pet hobby.

The Canadian Philatelist

Vol. 1. Rouleau, Sask., December 15, 1910 No. 9

EARLY CANADIAN STAMPS.

(Continued from Nov. issue)

Dominion Postal Act was passed on the 21st of December, 1867, which, however, did not take effect until the 1st of April, 1868. Several extracts from this Act are quoted by Mr. King, the following is I think the most interesting.

RATES OF POSTAGE

19. On all letters transmitted by post for any distance within Canada, except in cases herein otherwise specially provided for, there shall be charged and paid one uniform rate of three cents per ½ ounce in weight, any fraction of an ounce being chargeable as a half ounce, provided that such three cents postage rate be prepaid by postage stamps or in current coin at the time of posting such letters; and when such letters are posted without payment being made thereon, then and in such case it shall be lawful to charge upon letters so posted a rate of five cents per half ounce.

20. On letters not transmitted through the mails, but posted and delivered at the same post office, commonly known as local or drop letters, the postage shall be one cent, to be in all cases prepaid by postage stamp affixed to such letters.

23. On all newspapers sent by post in Canada, except in the cases herein before expressly provided for, there shall be payable a rate not exceeding two cents each, and when such newspapers are posted in Canada this rate shall in all cases be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the same.

A new issue of stamps were deemed necessary for such an important event as the founding of the Dominion, consequently we find that the order was given to the British America Bank Note Co., of Montreal and Ottawa, which firm is, according to Gibbon's catalogue, a Canadian branch of the American Bank Note Co., of New York. The reduced postal charges also necessitated several new values, so that the new set consisted of the following denominations, 1c., 2c., 3c., 6., 12½c., and 15c., while a half cent label was added shortly afterwards. All these stamps were printed in Ottawa in sheets of one hundred in ten rows of ten and were first placed on sale on April 1st, 1868.

In Canada and the States I

found that these stamps were generally referred to as "big heads" while they enjoyed a popularity which is, I think quite deserved. In the first place, the set includes two really very desirable stamps, namely the 1c. and 3c. on laid paper, varieties which one is likely to pick up at the price of the common stamp, a possibility dear to the heart of the collector. Secondly, with the exception of the half cent stamp, all the values are to be found on watermarked paper, these varieties being much sought after by the specialist. The two values on laid paper, namely the 1c. brown-red and 3c., red, were both an early printing, the laid lines are horizontal, and are generally very easy to see. Unused, these stamps are rarities, and, as far as I know none of the catalogues quote a price for them in this condition. Unused, they are also decidedly not common, well centred copies always finding ready buyers at more than half catalogue quotations. Although such a marked variety, the laid paper was not noticed by collectors, or at least chronicled, until many years after its use; the first reference I can find in old fyles of the Philatelic press being in the Philatelic Record for March, 1882, when Mr. Tapling informed that paper that he had the 3c. on laid paper.

In the January, 1883, issue of the same publication the 1c. orange is chronicled on the authority of M. Moens, as existing on laid paper: this is doubtless an error, the brown-red stamp being intended. In Kohl's catalogue the 15c stamp is listed, with a note of interrogation, as being on laid paper, this value was evidently included on the authority of the American Journal of Philately, which paper chronicled the stamp in 1892. I do not, however, think that authenticated laid paper 15 cents is known. The 2c. green was also chronicled some years ago, but I believe it turned out to be a fake.

The stamps on watermarked paper are, to my mind, most interesting far more collectable and far more deserving of catalogue rank than many of the minor varieties of surcharged and overprint of other countries. The history of the water-marked paper was not known until a comparatively recent date. It was Mr J. N. Luff, the well known New York specialist, who first unravelled the mystery of the various letters that are to be found on some of the stamps. His paper was published in the American Journal of Philately and was reproduced by Mr. King in his article already many times referred to. The following extract illustrates Mr. Luff's methods of discovery.

(To be continued)

C. W. Martin, Picton, Ont., writes: "The results I have obtained from advertising in your paper has been very satisfactory."

The Prize Stamp

A Christmas Story by BERTHA C. FOSTER. Author "Rose Celeste," etc.

KEN. Edwards put down his copy of the "Canadian Philatelist," with a sigh, and his sad grey eyes looked dreamily out of the window, into the dreary street below. For two hours he had laid on his back at that window, while day by day the lines of pain had deepened round his mouth, and the youth had faded from his face. Life had lost all charm for him since the day of that terrible accident, and he had heard his fate from the lips of his medical man.

"Why can't you give me a dose of arsenic"? he cried bitterly, "I don't want to live if I never can walk again." What a long time it seemed, and yet it was only two years. Was it possible that two years ago he had been full of life, and hope, and joy? The greyness before him stretched like a weary road, with no sun to shine behind. A little tap at the door roused his dreary musings.

"Come," he said, his eyes lightening eagerly as a girlish figure stepped into the room.

"How are you Ken"? she said brightly, tossing her hat on to a chair, and running her fingers through her pretty brown hair. "I've been so busy the last two days, I could not get in to see you."

"Sit down," he said, and his voice lost something of it's habitual discontent as he looked into the pretty face.

"I've typed till my fingers are too stiff to move," settling the cushions at his head, and putting his rugs straight, "We are frightfully busy in the office, and I've been working till all hours, but I think the rush will soon be over now. How have the days passed with you?" Very long eh?"

"Oh, about the same as usual, except, of course I've missed you."

"Have the stamps failed to interest you.?" she asked.

"Oh, no! There is always something new to learn about them, but I've had no fresh exchanges the last day or two, and I've been two lazy to get on arranging my duplicate sheets."

"Ken, I have got something I want you to do. Where are the back numbers of the "Canadian Philatelist?" Ah I see them. Here, the June number is the one I want." She turned the leaves quickly till she came to the page she wanted.

"Did you see this competition for a new design for Christmas Hospital Stamps? Why can't you go in for it, Ken?

The Canadian Philatelist

A Monthly Publication
Devoted to Philately.

Subscription Price 25c. per year.

Edited by Stephen Golder.

Andrew King, Publisher, Rouleau, Sask.

ADVERTISING RATES:
One Page, 12 in., $5.00. Half Page, 6 in., $2.50. Quarter Page, 3 in., $1.25. One in., 50c. Liberal discount on time contracts. Send copy to Business Office, Box B, Rouleau, Sask. Forms close on 10th of each month.

Exchanges are requested to send one copy to S. Golder, 1761 Scarth St., Regina, Sask., and one to Andrew King, Rouleau, Sask. Similar exchange will be given.

AUTHORIZED AGENTS:
E. P. Collingwood, Attleboro, Mass.
Cyrus J. McBean, 153 Mountain Ave., Winnipeg, Man.
Webb Stamp Co., Boonton, N.J.
The Philatelist Magazine agency, Thief River Falls, Minn.
Vernon P. Pierce & Co., Manchester, Mich.

You used to paint and draw so beautifully, it is a shame to give it up altogether."

"How can I paint-here?" he said, almost roughly.

She looked down at him, and her sweet brown eyes were misty. With an impetuous gesture she dropped on her knees beside his couch.

"Ken dear, I'm goin to preach to you," she said, with a little tremor in her voice, and laying her soft cheek against his hand.

He laughed unsteadily.

"Preach away, Mab. I know I am a grumbling, selfish brute-but"

"No," she interrupted quickly, "Don't" call yourself hard names you are wonderful. But Ken, it might be worse, dear"

"Might it?" he said, doubtfully.

She raised her head, and looked around the room.

"Yes—At least you can live in comparitive ease and comfort. You have books and pictures to look at, and—"

"A lovely view," he put in with a cynical smile, pointing to the street with it's rows of ugly, uneven houses, and chains of telephone wires.

"Be a true artist; above your surroundings."

Her brown eyes smiled down at him "Just think of the poor invalids for whom these Red Cross Stamps are sold. Many of them incurable, suffering, terribly poor,—living in squalid, miserable houses, with nothing to cheer or interest them."

He looked up at her with a crooked smile.

"It must be pretty hard without a stamp collection, Mab and—you."

She jumped to her feet, somewhat hurriedly.

"There I've done my sermon. But I hope I have interested you in this competition Ken. Do paint a beautiful design something better than a red cross and a wreath of holly The object is surely worthy of some lovely thing."

He raised his long, thin hand, and patted her enthusiastic face.

"I'll try what I can do." he said gently.

Then they fell into a less personal talk, and chatted of their separate stamp collections, and the various little odds and ends of interest which Mabel never failed to have ready for his amusement.

When she left him an hour later the discontent had almost ded from Ken's grey eyes.

On the other side of the invalid's door the smile died out of Mabel Hartley's face, and a look of extreme sadness took its place. Two years ago life for her too had been full of glorious possibilities. She and Ken were not engaged, but each knew the other was beloved, and he had only been waiting till her twentieth birthday to ask her to become his wife. Then just the day before that birthday arrived the accident occurred, which deprived him of all right to speak.

The girl crossed the street and entered the large apartment block where she and her mother dwelt. As she opened the door a glow of cheerful firelight from the open grate, greeted her, and a gentle voice called from the inner room.

"Mab, is that you, dear? Supper is almost ready. You must be tired and hungry."

"I have just been in to see Ken, Mother" she said, sinking down on an easy chair by the fire.

"How is he, poor fellow"?

"About the same, he seemed rather depressed when I went in, but I think I cheered him up a little."

"I was reading of a wonderful new surgeon in the States, today, who has effected most marvellous cures for people with bad spinal complaints. I was wishing we could get him for poor Ken—but I doubt it would cost too much."

The girl sat upright.

"What is his name mother?"

Mrs. Hartley, mentioned a man with whose name, Washington and the whole surgical world, was ringing.

"Oh! If only Ken could see him", she cried.

"I expect most of his money has already gone in doctor's fees," Mrs. Hartley said, regretfully.

"Yes, he has only a very small income" Mabel sighed.

That night the girl tossed wide-awake on her bed, trying to solve the problem of how to get the doctor to see Ken Edwards. If only Regina and Washington were not so far apart. but the long railway journey, together with the great fees, was far, far beyond the poor little savings she possesed. Then, suddenly in the still small hours of the early morning, an idea occured to her. She would sell her stamps. Her collection was a good one, started by her father, and she had many valuable old specimens of European stamps. It was

not without a pang of regret that she thought of letting it go but any sacrifice was worth while if Ken's health was the goal.

She was an enthusiastic collector, and was in touch with several of the most trust-worthy and best known stamp dealers, and without delay she wrote to them, offering her collection for sale.

In the meantime, the time was almost up for the stamp competition to close. Ken. Edwards, in his lonely room was working away at a design, which in his heart he knew was good. At first it had been hard for him to take up pencil and brushes again:—but once started, the old love of his art came back stronger than ever, and after making one or two rough sketches, he found himself working away at a little picture which he knew was his masterpiece. It represented charity, with hands outstretched towards a crippled figure, whose face was invisible as he bent over her gracious hands. Behind were the figures, eager for help. But the beauty of the work lay in the white clad form of charity. It was a portrait, pure and simple, of Mabel Hartley, Mabel as she knelt beside his sofa that eventful afternoon

He packed it carefully, and despatched with stamped wrapper and a request that the original might be returned. When it had gone he felt quite dull without the work to do. Mabel had not been allowed a peep at the picture.

He had been so engrossed in his work that he had not noticed that she seemed pre-occupied, and absent minded of late.

One wild stormy evening, late in October, Mabel Hartley knocked at his door. She seemed nervous, and excited, and hes eyes glittered strangely. She brought a spray of yellow chrysanthemums and placed them on a table beside Ken., and after tidying up his couch, bent over him with a shaky little laugh.

"Ken, dear, I know you hate seeing strangers—but—there is someone, a—a friend—I want you particularly to see. May I bring him in?"

Without waiting for any reply she ushered in the famous spine specialist, who, at her bidding, had travelled all the way from Washington to see Ken. Mabel had met him at the station, and told him of the accident, and introduced him to the doctor who had done his best for the poor, injured back. But as he stepped into the quiet room, and looked at the white face on the couch, and the eager girlish one in the doorway, the great man learnt the rest of the little tragedy without any explanations. The local doctor introduced him, and before Ken had time to demur or question, the clever, kindly face was bend-

(Continued on Page ii)

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The "Postage Stamp" reports that the sale in the London stamp shops of the Union of South Africa stamp and of the "Republica" Portuguese provisionals has been literally enormous. So great was the demand for the "Republica" stamps of Portugal that many of the largest London stamp houses entirely exhausted their supply within a very few days. The week following the issue of this and the South African stamp is stated to have been the busiest known in London stamp stores in many years.

Vernon B. Pierce, of the Michigan State College, Ypsilanti, writes: "The Canadian Philatelist is a fine journal and deserves the support of every philatelist in America."

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An Appreciation of Stamp Collecting as a Hobby

Gathered from Many Sources and Edited by Errington and Martin.

(Continued from Nov. issue)

The stamps were designed and engraved by a watchmaker in Port Louis, 500 specimens of each value were printed before the inscription "Post Office" was altered to "Post Paid"; now, only 26 specimens are known, 14-1d, and 12-2d, (of these, 2-1d and 5-2d, are unused). The following will give an idea of the wonderful rise in the value.

1847. An unused pair, 1d, and 2d, cost 3d in Mauritius.

1864. 8s. was paid for pair 1d and 2d unused.

1866 £8 was paid for pair 1d and 2d unused.

1870. £12 was paid for pair 1d and 2d unused, by Baron Rothschild.

1878. £30 was paid for the penny only, used, by Baron Rothschild.

1881. £40, the 2d, only, unused, by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P.

1882. £75, the 1d, only used, by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P.

1887. £220, pair 1d, and 2d, unused, by M. P. la Renotiers.

1889. £400, the 1d, only, unused, by M. Kirchner.

1893. £730, paid 1d and 2d unused, by W. E. Avery, Esq.

1896. £1,250 was offered and refused for the same pair.

1897. £1,920 was paid for pair 1d and 2d, used, by M. Jules Bernichon.

1898. £1,050, the 1d, only, used by Mr. W. H. Peckitt.

1900. £1,100, the 1d, only, used, by M. Th. Lemaire.

1904. £1,450, the 2d, only, unused, by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Naturally many interesting stories centre in these stamps, of which space will only allow us to mention the following: A Mr. Noivel was lucky enough to find two of these stamps, he sold one, and put the remaining specimen for safety in an under shirt pocker. In changing clothes this was forgotten, and the garment went with other linen to the wash. When M. Noivel remembered his blund it was too late the stamp had disappeared for ever. In 1890 a lady gave a few old stamps to to a bazaar thinking to swell the funds of her church by a few shillings. A specimen of the 1d value was discovered among the lot, and realized 100 pounds sterling. In 1902 a French school boy in Bordeaux found amongst some old letters at his father's office an envelope with

two "Post Office" Mauritius stamps, these were gladly sold to a dealer collector for forty pounds sterling, who promptly sold them to a dealer in Paris for 800 pounds sterling, who re-sold them for nearly 2,000 pounds sterling. The most recent, and perhaps the most remarkable story is that of a little collection made by a boy at Cool offered for sale in London unsuccessfully in 1903 for 24 pounds sterling, and finally placed for sale by auction with Messrs. Putrick and Simpson, with the happy result for the owner, of the sale of the 2d, unused specimen for 1,450 pounds sterling as fully described above.

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It is the Purpose

of the above publication, edited by C. H. Makeel, to give collectors and dealers the stamp news of the whole world. With useful and reliable information, upon all subjects of interest to students of stamps. This journal enjoys the largest and best circulation of any publication of its class. Liberally illustrated and handsomely printed.

Its advertising columns are open to reliable dealers upon reasonable terms.

Published by

Stamp Security Co.,
Wellston Station, St. Louis, Mo.

A Saskatchewan Red Cross Stamp

For the past two years at Christmas time the people of Saskatchewan through the Leader and other channels have contributed a substantial sum to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives by the purchase of THE RED CROSS Christmas Stamp issue for the benefit of that most deserving institution.

This year, however, the opportunity will be afforded the people of this province of assisting in a similar manner an institution of their own, having for its object the carrying out of a work more or less identical with that being performed by the Muskoka hospital.

The Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League which has been in progress of organization for several months past under the personal direction of the provincial Commissioner of Health, Dr. M. M. Seymour, has decided to issue a Christmas Red Cross stamp for sale throughout the province, the proceeds of which will go towards the building of the sanitarium which it is intended to establish in Saskatchewan for the benefit of tubercular trouble.

Regina Leader.

Advices from Melbourne state that penny postage within the Commonwealth will probably be introduced by the New Year.

Exchange Column

Rates, 1c per 2 words. Minimum charge 10c. One 30 word ad. free to subscribers.

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